

by Mission agencies, leaving 4 which were managed by other individuals. Individual management was likely to end in failure. In the Tiruvalla taluk there were, in 1090, 154 Elementary schools, of which 47 were departmental schools. Moreover, 14 of the above schools were of the higher grade. In taluks which were backward in education such as Kottarakara, it was necessary that the Government should slightly change their general policy as regards Elementary education and increase the number of departmental schools, both higher and lower grades.

There was only one higher grade school for girls in the taluk. There were two other schools for girls, of which one alone was departmental. The strength of all the above schools came to about 200. The one aided school was likely to stop work. The complaint that qualified female teachers were not available would cease, only if the number of schools for girls were increased in the interior parts of the country where girls from all communities could get admission. The Member requested that the subject of female education in the taluk might also receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

134. Opening of an Agricultural School at Karunagapalli.

Mr. E. Kesava Pillai (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) said that, though the Agricultural Department was doing useful work in the country, the bulk of the people were ignorant of the scientific methods of agriculture. The people were also unwilling to follow the new methods, giving up their old methods; and the department did not always succeed in removing from the minds of the ryots the doubts as to the utility or benefit of improved methods of cultivation. With a view to impart to the ryots a knowledge of scientific cultivation, it was necessary to open agricultural schools all over the State.

The Director of Agriculture had already made certain proposals to the Government on the subject. They were, firstly, that agriculture should be taught as one of the subjects in the Elementary schools situated in agricultural centres, and secondly, that agricultural schools should be opened in every taluk or at least one school for a group of two or three taluks. It was necessary that there should be trained men to teach agricultural subjects in the above schools. The above proposals presupposed the existence of a principal Agricultural Institution in an important centre where persons might get the necessary training to fit them as teachers in the Elementary schools. The Director's proposals had not been sanctioned by the Government. Whatever might be the reasons for not doing so, the fact could not be denied that the bulk of the ryots were ignorant on matters relating to agriculture. The population was increasing and the area available for cultivation was decreasing day by day. It was the duty of the Government, therefore, to encourage agriculturists as far as possible. The taluk of Karunagappalli was an agricultural centre. It was desirable to open an Agricultural school at Ochira. The people were ready to render whatever assistance lay in their power. The proposed school would benefit the adjoining taluks also. There could be no doubt that Ochira was best suited for the purpose. An annual Agricultural Exhibition was held there. It had a Government Farm. The Member, therefore, prayed that an Agricultural school be started at Ochira.

Regarding admission to agricultural schools, the Member said that only those who had an aptitude for agriculture should be admitted and that no examination qualification need be insisted on for admission.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

135. Raising the standard of the Lower Grade Secondary School for Girls at Chengannur.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that the necessity for raising the standard of the L. G. School for girls at Chengannur was very great. The girls who passed the Third Form had either to go to Trivandrum or join the local Higher Grade school for boys to continue their studies. For obvious reasons, both the above courses were not desirable and the result was that many girls had to discontinue their studies. There were at present 25 students in Form III. The place was a healthy one and was growing in importance. If a Higher Grade school was opened there, it would serve the